

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00520 121308Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /082 W
-----130404Z 056073 /14

R 121220Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6182
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUJUMBURA 0520

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, UNDP, BY
SUBJECT: COMMENTS FROM BURUNDI ACTING RESREP ON FUTURE OF UNDP

REF: STATE 086320

1. EMBASSY POSED QUESTIONS REFTEL TO ACTING UNDP RESREP FOR
BURUNDI, ALADAR ZICHY, AN AUSTRIAN WHO HAS HAD FIVE YEARS EXPERIENCE
WITH UNDP IN THREE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND WHO IS A COMPETENT
ADMINISTRATOR AND THOUGHTFUL OBSERVER OF THE UNDP SCENE.

2. THE PROBLEM OF EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK: RESREP THOUGHT THE
PROBLEM OF FEEDBACK IN UNDP WAS WELL ON THE ROAD TO IMPROVEMENT
WITH THE DATA BANK SYSTEM STARTED LAST YEAR, ONGOING PREPARATION
OF A BOOKLET ON ALL UNDP ASSISTED INSTITUTIONS WORLDWIDE, AND A
MONTHLY CIRCULAR FROM THE UNDP DOCUMENTATION CENTER COVERING THE BEST
CURRENT PUBLICATIONS ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUBJECTS. PROPER EVALUATION,
HOWEVER, REMAINED A SERIOUS OMISSION, IN HIS OPINION. THERE IS
A LACK OF QUALIFIED MANPOWER TO MAKE EVALUATIONS AT FIELD POSTS OF
ON-GOING OR COMPLETED PROJECTS AND TO FIT THEM INTO AN OVERALL
FRAMEWORK OF GOALS AND PRIORITIES. HE HAS FOUND THAT EXISTING STAFF
AROUND A RESREP HAVE NO TIME TO DEVOTE TO MORE CONCEPTUAL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00520 121308Z

THINKING; THEY ARE TIED UP WITH ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS AND PAPER-
WORK WHICH HAS BECOME PARTICULARLY BURDENSOME SINCE THE
ADOPTION OF THE COMPLICATED FINANCIAL SYSTEM FOR COPYING WITH THE
RECENT FINANCIAL CRISIS.

3. THE PROBLEM OF COORDINATION: IN THE BROADEST SENSE OF THE UN
ORGANIZATION, ARESREP THOUGHT UN MEMBERS WOULD HAVE TO COME TO

GRIPS SOONER OR LATER WITH THE PRESENT SYSTEM WHICH ALLOWS FOR TOO MANY UN DECISION MAKING BODIES IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FIELD. IF ECOSOC COULD HAVE ITS DECISION MAKING POWER EXTENDED TO THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, THEN THERE WOULD BE FEWER CONTRADICTIONS, EASIER PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION, AND A MUCH REDUCED BURDEN ON THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL. IN ADDITION TO THIS FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM IN THE UN SYSTEM, HE WAS STRONGLY OF THE OPINION THAT THE RECENT UNDP FINANCIAL CRISIS HAD SEVERELY DAMAGED THE COORDINATION IN THE FIELD THAT UNDP HAD BUILT UP OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS. THE DISORDER THAT HAS BEEN THROWN INTO PROJECTS HAS CREATED NOT ONLY A LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN UNDP BY MANY HOST GOVERNMENTS, BUT IT IS ALLOWING THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO BE INDEPENDENT AS THEY STEP INTO THE UNDP FINANCIAL BREACH WITH THEIR OWN FUNDS. IN HIS OPINION, THE MOST IMPORTANT WAY TO REBUILD THE POWER OF THE RESREPS WAS TO INSURE THAT FUNDS CAME FROM JUST ONE SOURCE FOR PROJECTS. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE JUST ONE UN OFFICE IN A COUNTRY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES ACTUALLY LOCATED AND WORKING IN THAT OFFICE AS SPECIAL ADVISERS TO THE RESREP. THIS SYSTEM, HE SAID, IS USED BY UNDP IN SOME COUNTRIES LIKE SENEGAL AND ETHIOPIA BUT IS BY NO MEANS UNIVERSAL.

4. THE FUTURE ROLE OF UNDP: ARESREP SAW CONTINUING NEED FOR A UNDP PRESENCE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, EVEN THE MORE ADVANCED ONES. HE THOUGHT A VISIBLE UN PRESENCE IN A COUNTRY WAS IMPORTANT AS A SYMBOL TO THE HOST COUNTRY AND ITS CITIZENS OF SOMETHING GLOBAL AND AS A MEANS OF PREPARING PEOPLE MENTALLY FOR A MORE UNIFIED WORLD. UNDP NEEDS, HOWEVER, TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN MEETING THE NEEDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BUJUMB 00520 121308Z

OF THE MORE ADVANCED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; ONE WAY MIGHT, HE THOUGHT, BE THROUGH USING MORE VISITING CONSULTING MISSIONS RATHER THAN RESIDENT EXPERTS. AT THE SAME TIME, UNDP COULD CONSIDERABLY AUGMENT THE AMOUNT COMMITTED TO INTER-COUNTRY PROGRAMS IN HIS OPINION. WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM, HE SAW THE IDEAL FUTURE ROLE OF UNDP AS FOURFOLD: (1) THE INTELLECTUAL REPOSITORY FOR IDEAS AND PLANNING FUNCTIONS IN PROJECT DEVELOPMENT; (2) THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR UN PERSONNEL COMING TO THE COUNTRY AND FOR THE HOST GOVERNMENT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS; (3) THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE ENTIRE UN PROGRAM IN A COUNTRY; AND THE NEGOTIATOR OF PROJECT AGREEMENTS WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT. HE PLACED MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE FUTURE NEED TO RECRUIT BETTER QUALIFIED RESREPS AND TO PROPERLY PREPARE THEM FOR THEIR TASKS, PERHAPS THROUGH A SHORT TERM RESREPS SCHOOL. DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT SKILLS OF UNDP FIELD STAFFS WAS ALSO SEVERELY LACKING AS WAS PROPER TRAINING OF LOCAL STAFFS.

5. THE QUESTION OF INCREASED RESOURCES: SPEAKING STRICTLY AT THE FIELD LEVEL, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT HOST GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE

WILLING TO PROVIDE MORE OF THE PROJECT COSTS IF THE GOVERNMENT WERE CONVINCED OF THE USEFULNESS OF UNDP AND ITS PROGRAM. EVEN AS ONE OF THE POOREST OF THE POOR, BURUNDI, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS BEEN WILLING TO COMMIT ITS OWN FUNDS TO HELP WITH THE UNDP MINERALS AND INSURANCE PROJECTS HERE. HE THOUGHT THE QUESTION OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL SERVICES COULD NOT BE ANSWERED UNTIL SPECIALIZED AGENCY RELATIONS WITH UNDP ARE BETTER RESOLVED.

6. SHOULD THERE CONTINUE TO BE A SINGLE GENERAL UNDP FUND: HIS ANSWER WAS A RESOUNDING YES. MUCH TIME CAN BE SAVED BY USING ONE FUND, PARTICULARLY IF THERE ARE WELL-DEFINED GOALS FOR USE IN A PARTICULAR COUNTRY PROGRAM, AND PAPERWORK CAN BE BETTER CONTROLLED.

ISOM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUJUMB00520
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770168-0703
Format: TEL
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770567/aaaacfh1.tel
Line Count: 130
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c5e5b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 86320
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2553799
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENTS FROM BURUNDI ACTING RESREP ON FUTURE OF UNDP
TAGS: EAID, BY, UNDP, (ZICHY, ALADAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c5e5b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009